(b) and (c) Only one person, namely Mond. Irfan s|o Mond. Ayub r/o Gari Mohalla, Village Tanda District Gujarat in Pakistan, has been arrested in this case. Further investigations are, continuing. It would not, therefore, be feasible or prudent to disclose further details at this stage.

Resuscitation of J&K from political coma

3945. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report published in the 'Indian Express' (New Delhi) dated 6th April, 1995 under the caption "Resuscitating J&K from its political coma" regarding the functioning of the Ministerial panel on J&K; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the press report in question. The Group of Ministers has been set up to consider and deliberate upon issues relating to restoration of the political process in J&K. It is taking action accordingly.

Lathi-charge on media persons at Jammu

3946. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Police and C.R.P.F. resorted to a lathi charge on peaceful media persons at Jammu on 31st March, 1995; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many scribes including women scribes were injured in the lathi-charge; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) On 31.3.1995, local pressmen who were taking out a procession to observe the "Press Day", were stopped near the Secretariat, where prohibitary orders under section 144 Cr. P.C were in force. When they tried to break the police cordon, mild force had to be used resulting in minor injuries to 4-5 pressmen, including a woman. The Press lodged a protest against the incident and declared that they would boycott all official functions till action was taken against the police personnel involved in the incident. The State Government ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident and a Sub-Inspector of Police was placed under suspension. The local Press also set up a Committee of Inquiry to go into the incident, after which they had further discussions with the State Government, pursuant to which the matter was amicably settled and the protest was called-off.

Pending cases against companies

3947. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had undertaken an analysis of the rising cases against companies;

(b) if so, whether the analysis has been completed and if so, with what results;

(c) the reasons for the rising number of cases against the companies and the steps taken to remedy the situation;

(d) the number of cases pending against the companies as on the 31st December, 1994 and how do those compare with the preceding three years; and